

## James Jim Sheckels Biography

Jim Sheckels married Becky Simpson, his high school sweetheart on 3 May 1977 in Knoxville, TN. They have two adult children, Katrina and Ken.

Jim was born at Naval Air Station, Florida; raised in East Tennessee; but “grew-up” at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Born into largely a Navy family and being a member of Navy Junior ROTC in high school, Jim “the rebel bastard” joined the US Army in 1976 and trained as an infantryman and paratrooper. Spending nearly 21 years on active duty, mostly at Ft Bragg in Special Operations and Airborne units, he retired in 1996 at his final active-duty assignment, stationed at McChord Air Force Base while assigned to a NORAD ground radar surveillance unit. He spent most of his career as a Nuclear, Biological, & Chemical Operations Specialist. He is a Desert Storm / Desert Shield combat veteran and saw several mission deployments in Central & South America and Korea.

Jim spent most of the next 21 years as a Department of Defense civil service employee. His positions included assignments with Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC); US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC); and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division; and Joint Forces Command (JFCOM). His civilian service included several deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qataar, and Germany.

Jim is a member of the Boy Scouts of America for 55 plus years. He is a Shooting Sports Director, and annually instructs at National Camping School to certify other Scout leaders as Shooting Sports Directors. He is a member of the BSA National Range and Target Sports committee and is part of the senior management team for shooting sports at the BSA National Jamborees and World Scouting Jamboree at the Summit-Bechtol Reserve National High Adventure Center in West Virginia.

Jim is Vice-President of Crosse Creek Rifle and Pistol Club in Cumberland County, NC. Volunteering as a Master Hunter Education Instructor, he assists with training new instructors. He was selected for the North Carolina Hunter Education Advisory Council. He has been a 4H Shooting Club leader and part of the local wildlife club’s Board of Directors.

Jim also volunteers as a Red Cross Disaster Action Team member, and is certified to assist with mass casualty, sheltering, and other services for those in need during natural and fire disasters.

Jim was selected as one of the original NRA Regional Training Counselor Liaisons and serves Mid-Atlantic Region 5. He has assisted with several TC Development Workshops and has trained thousands of instructors and basic shooters in every discipline offered through NRA Education & Training. He is a Lifetime Benefactor member and is involved with the Cape Fear Friends of NRA.

Other instructor activities include NMLRA Master Trainer; USA Archery / National Field Archery Level 3-NTS/IT Coach; NC Concealed Carry; Level 2 NRA/CMP Smallbore & Air Rifle Coach; ECSI & ARC Wilderness First Responder, First Aid/CPR/AED.

Organizational memberships include: Lifetime Member – The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 82d Airborne Division Assn, International Hunter Education Assn, US Army Chemical Corps Regiment Assn, Grass Roots NC (2A RIGHTS!); Member: USA Archery, National Field Archery Assn, US Law Shield, National Shooting Sports Foundation, International Assn of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors.